

LANIGAN/MANITOU WATERSHED NEWS

2008-04001/

Highlighting the Lanigan/Manitou Agri-Environmental Group Farm Plan

April 2007 Issue

Stewardship on the Farm

Across Saskatchewan, there are several programs that can help producers protect the lands they live on. Many producers know how important stewardship is for the environment and their livelihood, and these programs provide funding assistance so that producers can continue their stewardship activities. These programs offer tools and promote awareness of decreasing our impacts on and achieving meaningful improvements to soil, water, air quality and biodiversity.

One of these programs is the Lanigan/Manitou Agri-Environmental Group Plan (AEGP). Nancy Gray, the Group Plan Advisor for this area, can work with you to identify and address any environmental concerns you have regarding your farm and to help you become a certified member of the Group Plan. Once certified, you will be eligible for funding through the Canada-Saskatchewan Farm Stewardship Program to implement two Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs) – wintering site management and riparian area management. The implementation of these BMPs are cost-shared at fifty percent up to a maximum dollar value of \$15,000 for the wintering site practices, and \$20,000 for riparian area practices.

Nancy Gray – Lanigan/Manitou Group Plan Advisor

Producers interested in learning more about wintering site management, riparian area management or any aspect of the Lanigan/Manitou Agri-Environmental Group Plan, are welcome to call Nancy Gray at home at 946-3135 or cell at 946-8107. Nancy can meet with you personally to discuss wintering site and riparian area management practices and the amount of funding you may be qualified to receive.



Nancy Gray

Another program that can help assess your farm is the Environmental Farm Plan (EFP). This program is offered through the Provincial Council of ADD Boards (PCAB) and is a voluntary, confidential, self-assessment tools for producers. Workshops and binders are used to raise awareness about environmental risks and opportunities on producer's operations. Producers develop their own action plans to identify management practices that could help reduce environmental risk on their farms. Completion of an EFP is an eligibility requirement if producers wish to access cost-shared funding through the Canada-Saskatchewan Farm Stewardship Program to implement 30 recognized Beneficial Management Practices. To be part of the Lanigan/Manitou Agri-Environmental Group Plan you do not need to have completed an individual Environmental Farm Plan, but it is encouraged. Both programs complement each other.

Area covered by the Lanigan/Manitou Agri-Environmental Group Plan



Some producers have already initiated projects under the Lanigan/Manitou AEGP.

Group Plan Advisor Nancy Gray worked on a wintering site

management plan with Greg Stokke. Greg and his family have a mixed farm near Watrous. Greg applied for fencing and windbreaks to decrease confinement and to move the wintering site away from a riparian area. Fencing was used to develop a wintering site close to the yard and to reduce the number of days animals would be confined in corrals. Windbreaks offer an opportunity to leave cattle out on stubble and hay land so that nutrients can be utilized next year to increase the tonnage and yield in the field. This also allowed the movement of cattle out of the riparian area. Greg has constructed his own windbreaks at 9 feet high and 30 feet long and he feels that he gets 90 feet of decreased wind area with these. Even through some of the worst storms the windbreaks have allowed the cattle to remain out of the yard. They are easily moved with the front-end loader and grapple. The project applications were developed by Nancy and Greg, who worked together to come up with solutions for the difficulties that Greg was encountering. Nancy can assist producers to develop wintering site and riparian area site management plans to make changes that benefit the environment and the water quality for the region as a whole.



Greg Stokke's former wintering site.



Greg Stokke's new wintering site provides a feeding area out of the riparian zone.



Wintering site practices can reduce the risk of nutrients entering water sources.

For More Information:

Nancy Gray, PAg
Lanigan/Manitou Group Plan Advisor
(306) 946-3135
(306) 946-8107 (cell)
ngray@sasktel.net

Watch for rural abandoned water well decommissioning workshops in your area in the near future! Learn how to decommission abandoned water wells and protect your groundwater.



Western Beef
Development Centre



Technical support for the project received from: Ducks Unlimited Canada, Saskatchewan Watershed Authority, Prairie Agricultural Machinery Institute, and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada – Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration.

Funding for this program provided by Canada's Agricultural Policy Framework

Canada



Government of
Saskatchewan